Max Raymond Yale (1918–1997)

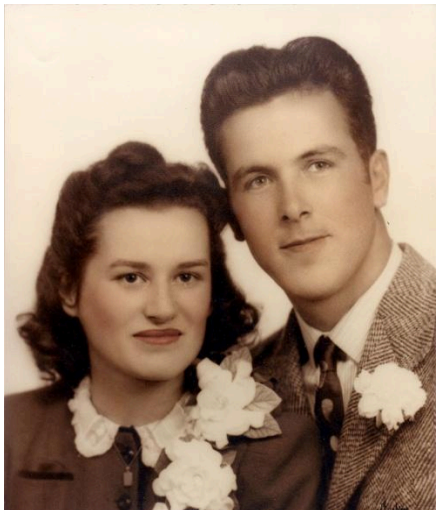
Origin and Family

Born Jan 9, 1918 Died Dec 9, 1997, age 79.

Father: Dean Everitt Yale (1892–1945)
Mother: Mildred Harriet Bradley (1894–1977)
Spouse: Mildred Virginia ("Midge") Yale (1918–1991)

Children:[2]

- Raymond Denny Yale (1942–2021)
- Lynne Rae Yale (Jan 19, 1944–)
- Cora Lee Yale (Jul 24, 1945–)
- Max Brian Yale (Sept 7, 1947–)



Max and Midge Yale, 1941

"Max Raymond Yale was born on the Yale family farm in Brule, Nebraska, on January 9, 1918. He moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, with his family soon after birth. In 1923, he traveled to San Diego, CA with his parents and three brothers. After graduating from Grossmont High School in 1935, Mr. Yale entered San Diego State University, graduating in 1939. He was considered an excellent football player in high school and later in college, where he played for the championship team of 1937. His greatest academic achievements were in mathematics."[2]

"On February 21, 1941, Mr. Yale married Mildred Virginia Roberts, daughter of William E. and Cora (Cleator) Roberts, in Santa Ana, Ca., by whom he had two sons and two daughters."[2]

On September 11, 1991, just 10 days after Max's wife Midge died, I organized a video-taped interview with Max. Highlights from the one-hour interview include:[3]

- When Max moved to San Diego in 1923, at first they lived in a tent, camping out in Mission Valley
- They then rented a house near Hoover High School. At the time, El Cajon Blvd was a dirt road
- For a few years they lived in South San Diego, where Max went to grade school and hunted rabbits in the afternoon.
- They then moved to North Park on 3701 Herman Street.
- In his senior year in high school, they moved to El Cajon on a 10 acre farm and Max then went to Grossmont High School, graduating in 1935.
- At age 12, Max needed to earn his own money to buy clothes, pay for haircuts, and pay for his dental and medical bills. He was under pressure to quit school to help the family get by financially.
- He was responsible for three cows, which he milked daily. He also took care of 800 Rhode Island Red hens, and sold the eggs on a regular egg route. He had some pigs and fed them milk from the cows. He also took care of two horses and two mules.
- At the time, El Cajon was farmland with just a few dirt roads. The main crop was table grapes.
- His older brother Brad had a gas station at El Cajon Blvd and Woodrow Wilson and Max worked there at night

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- One summer, his father had Max and two of his brothers working full time doing salvage work for five cents per day. After three months of hard work, the amount of money Max earned would only pay for one pair of blue jeans.

Occupation

Max became a surveyor for the County of San Diego and was chief of party for the surveying of the South Grade Road to the top of Mount Palomar. The road was specifically engineered to transport the fragile, 200-inch Corning glass mirror for the Mount Palomar Observatory.

He then transferred to Convair Aircraft Corporation of San Diego in 1940 as an aircraft design engineer. Soon, he became chief of several aircraft structural design groups. He led design efforts for modern war planes as well as commercial aircraft, including prototypes for popular Douglas DC-10. Mr. Yale was also responsible for the space vehicle designs, including the historically famous U.S.A. L.E.M. Program (Lunar Excursion Module).

Convair and the Martin Marietta Company both did feasibility designs for the Lunar Excursion Module in 1960, which was eventually built by Grumman Aircraft Company. One outcome of this effort was that Max invented a three-prong space grappling hook that may have been patented by Convair. Max retired from General Dynamics/Convair in 1975 at the young age of 57. At one time, he had 400 engineers working for him in the Structural Engineering group. One of his favorite sayings was in response to the question, “How many people do you have working for you?” to which he would reply - “Oh, about half of them!”

Life In Rural Spring Valley

In the late 1940s, Max purchased a two-acre property at 3141 Helix St. in Spring Valley." The home was actually an automotive garage with a dirt floor when he bought it. He quickly converted it to a two bedroom one-bath house. Over several years Max more than doubled the size of the house and improved the barn and grounds with many terraces and rock walls. He had horses, cows, chickens, ducks, and a wonderful Collie dog Caesar. The back acre was an Olive grove. Max removed most of the trees, creating a large wood pile that provided firewood for over 15 years. He hosted a large annual office party while at Convair and most of the back acre would be filled with cars from the guests. A large pit barbeque and a live band were highlights.

Max was a great storyteller and would captivate his children and their friends with personal stories. For years, he was nicknamed “pry-pole” for a story he told about a car in a ditch and how he used leverage from a pry-pole to remove it, to the great delight of the stranded motorists.

Max was a strict disciplinarian and believed in corporal punishment, although the spankings created much more fear than actual pain. This was offset by a loving mother, and a close-knit family of high achievers. Max was very involved with his family, attending most of the youth sporting events and treating the family to many family vacations and fishing trips. His difficult upbringing took its toll on Max as a parent. He was never good at showing affection with his children, although he clearly cared very much. Son Ray remembers Max as “a solid, stern father…who was short on affection.”

Family vacations were taken with a 1955 Chevy station wagon and with a home-made aluminum trailer Max built from Convair’s aircraft scrap yard. The trailer had a flip-up lid with two or three beds inside.

In 1954 Max joined the Carmen Ranch Club, and the family enjoyed swimming and other activities the club offered. Sons Ray and Brian were on the swim team, while Lynne and Cora Lee were on the Water Ballet team. A few years later, Max became part-owner (with his brother-in-Law Norman Roberts and with father-in-law William E. (“Bill”) Roberts) of a beach

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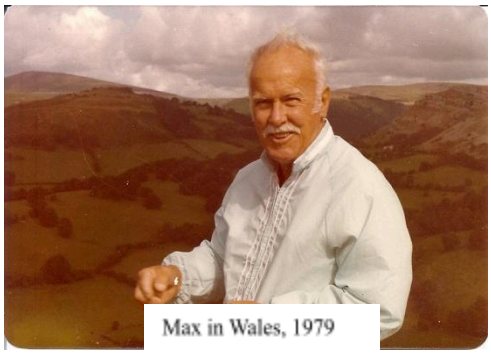
house on Isthmus Court in Mission Beach. Bill Roberts, who was my grandfather, lived in the house during the summers, and the Roberts and Yale families enjoyed many beach parties and fun activities. The house was sold in the late 1960s or early 1970s for just $35,000.

When daughter Lynne became an Airline Stewardess for United Airlines in 1964, it provided the opportunity for low-cost travel for Max and Midge. They visited most of the United States and Brazil, Peru, China, England, France, Italy, Israel, Egypt, South Africa, many trips to Hawaii, and many other places around the world.

In 1966 Max purchased a 1963 red Chevrolet Corvette Stingray split rear-window sports car from his brother-in-law Norman Roberts. Max drove it for a few years before selling it for $700. Today, it would be worth well over $100,000.


Max in Wales, 1979

In 1979, I joined Max and his brother Bill, and Bill's sons Randy and David on a trip to Wales. Max's brother Don had been to Wales a few years earlier, and Bill and his wife Yvonne had been there in 1977 or 1978. We had a good time exploring family historical sites in and around Chester, Wrexham, and Oswestry in the Walsh Marshes. We visited the ancestral homes of Plas yn Yale and Plas Grono. We found some Yale family monuments in churches and visited the grave of Elihu Yale. Max and I made a side trip to Dublin, Ireland, but returned less than 24 hours later. At that time, Dublin was a dirty city and there was much unrest after the assassination of Lord Mountbatten on the day we arrived (August 27, 1979).[3]

Max purchased the home at 4991 Mt. Helix Drive in 1988 or 1989 from his brother Bill Yale. He made several improvements, creating a front yard by excavating a granite slope with a pick and shovel, building a redwood deck in the back, and terracing the backyard.

A Brilliant Mind

Max was unique in many respects. He was very intelligent and a member of Mensa. He was an avid do-it-yourselfer, an inventor, fairly wealthy, and an excellent bridge player. He was an incredibly hard worker. He was interested and involved with his children and grandchildren and had good relationships with them.

Max did not like to spend money, and his parsimony only increased later in life. His family used to remind him that "you can't take it with you", to which he would reply, "Well, if I can't take it with me, I'm not going!" He would only play golf at River Valley - an 11-hole course in Mission Valley where he could get a Senior Citizen mid-week rate of $4 per round. Late in life he canceled his trash service as he did not feel the amount of trash he generated justified the $19/mo fee.

In the last few weeks of his life, he stopped taking his blood pressure medications in favor of herbal remedies. Son Ray warned him how dangerous this was, but he was influenced by a female companion and persisted with the herbal pills, which very likely resulted in his sudden passing.

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End of Life

Max left an estate of over $1 million. It would be necessary to go back in time 400 years to the estate of Dr. David Yale in 1626 to find an estate this large amongst our ancestors. As the executor of his estate, I asked Max if he wanted to consider giving part of his estate to a charity or the Engineering School at San Diego State, but he declined. He wanted it all passed to his children Ray, Lynne, and Brian. He and Midge had stipulated the exclusion of Cora Lee Yale from inheritance, as she became estranged from the family in the 1970s.[3]

Max died suddenly on December 9, 1997, from a stroke while walking on Mt. Helix, just a few yards from the Mt. Helix Cross. I wrote this brief tribute:

"Everyone who knew Max loved his friendly, engaging style, his intellect, and his sense of humor. He had an amazing capacity for work that he fully indulged in, and he had an unmatched mechanical ability to fix things and find creative solutions to everyday problems. Just look around his house and you will see many examples of his handiwork – his bottomless mailbox, the desk in his office, the living room clock, the patio, and the extensive earthwork.

Max was very proud of his lifelong marriage to Midge of over 50 years. They had a wonderful life together. He was equally proud of his surviving children, his six grandchildren, and his seven great grandchildren.

His family and friends have lost a great treasure in Max – he was truly an American Original and there simply are not more like him"[3]

Grandson Chris Yale remembered his first fishing trip with Grandpa Max.

> *"I remember Grandpa Max taking Scott and I fishing one day in San Diego bay. It was his old silver fishing boat that, as I recall, was rather beat up. We got maybe 50 yards from shore when the motor fell off the back of the boat and dropped into the water. Luckily we were still in shallow water, so Grandpa jumped out and reattached it. That was my first experience with salty language and duct tape.*
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> *As far as lessons learned, Grandpa Max was the poster child for saving money. Growing up I always questioned his extreme reluctance to spend money on simple conveniences. Now that I'm older I've realized that being conservative is not a vice, but rather a practical and wise course to take*."

Sister Lynne Yale and Brother Ray Yale contributed greatly to this chapter. They provided many of the insights above, as well as several corrections. They also provided thoughtful emails that I have included below.

From Lynne Yale:

> *I remember my dad as a strong man, and we used to call him the Arm and Hammer man, like the picture on the baking soda can, because of his big arm muscles. The endless rock walls he built on our Spring Valley property, milking Serina the cow at the crack of dawn every day before going to work. He was a design engineer and a creative inventor who could make or fix almost anything.*
>
> *It took awhile for him to add on to our small home, and as 4 little kids we all slept in the same room with wall to wall beds. But later we had plenty of room. I had a happy childhood at that house, growing up with lots of animals and space to run around in. I loved having my horse Gus as a teen, and Caesar the dog. I did not like plucking the*

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chickens we raised for food. At one time, we had 6 cars in our driveway, and Ray had a car club in the back acre and Little House. Carmen Ranch Swim Club was a lot of fun for us as teens, Mom and dad were very active in that also.

We all loved the beach house in Mission Beach, where Grandpa and Grandma lived in the summer. We had lots of extended family gatherings and Bar b Qs with abalone that my brothers and cousins would dive for at the beach, and we girls would pound them out and Dad would cook them. My friends and I spent many happy days and nights there in the summer.

Dad made silver and turquoise jewelry after retiring, and made several pieces for Mom and me. I could show him a picture of a plate rack I wanted as a gift and he could make it. He made us all hand carved staffs from fallen wood, carving faces and names on them. He collected antique pieces in their travels and then made art with them later.

Mom and Dad bought some property in Descanso after we started leaving, and Dad built a small 2 story cabin so they could stay nights there and enjoy the country. I had some fun times there.
Dad talked about the poverty of the depression and how hard it was. Once I saw the house they lived in in San Diego and got to go up the ladder to peek in the attic where the 5 brothers had slept. It was just 5 cots to sleep in with no standing room. They were all encouraged to get jobs young and contribute to the household.

When I became a stewardess in 1964, I was able to get them free flight tickets once a year, plus other deals, and they loved to go places. They went to Hawaii so often that they bought property on the Big Island. That went on for 12 years until I quit, and then they kept traveling.

Both of my daughters loved their Grandpa dearly, and were devastated at his sudden death. Dad gave Justine away at her wedding in 1990 in their beautiful backyard, under the gazebo. My Uncle Bill (the judge) married them. When she was a young teen, Justine ran away from home and went to see Dad. "He said loving words to me and I felt the love of a father figure, which is why my life turned around and my grades improved. He told me about his childhood pain and it meant so much. He was simply amazing".

My youngest daughter Bonnie, who was 12 when he died said "Grandpa was a brave and loving man. He was like a father to me."

He was strong until the end, still digging and working at age 79, when a stroke hit him while he was running at the top of Mt. Helix.

From Ray Yale:

Well, Mom was special. She had that rare ability to make and keep friends. She was very active socially and always kept up with the trends in life. The volume of attendees at her funeral service was a huge testimonial to the number of friends she had.

Do you remember when we were growing up how Mom was so active every morning? She made us breakfast and then made our beds while we ate. She dusted and vacuumed early. And, most often, as soon as she got us off to school and Dad off to work, Mom headed to the golf course!

I could not have asked for a better Mother.

As for Dad, I have numerous memories....some good…and a few more not so good. Let's just say he was a solid, stern father. He was very tight with money - especially in his later

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years, It may have been part of his upbringing, but I always felt Dad was short on being affectionate, but maybe I was responsible for that...who knows. And, I recall Dad being quick to get out the spanking paddle.

The fact that Dad took his entire vacation each year and spent it on a trip with all us kids speaks volumes...He tried....he really did. But I also recall him pulling over to the side of the road after a long, long drive and spanking some of us for getting unruly or bored, or whatever.

Dad let his last girlfriend talk him into a regimen of holistic medicines like herbs and stuff instead of his prescribed blood pressure medicines. I recall discussing this when Dad came to visit us in Oregon about a month or so before he died. I told Dad I was very concerned and how dangerous it was to mess with his blood pressure medicines, but his girlfriend wanted to argue that with me. Dad saw it as a way to save money, so he continued with the herbs and vitamins until he passed away. To this day I can't help think that Dad might still be alive if he had not strayed from his proper medications. After all, he was in pretty good physical shape.

Well, that's enough for now. It's hard to define your parents in a few sentences

Research Notes

Online Genealogy References:

WikiTree ID: Yale-864
FamilySearch ID: L1Q5-N4K
Find a Grave Memorial: 292892641

Further Reading:

- Yale, Max Brian. *Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.* 2025

- Yale, Max Brian. *Yale Family Coat of Arms* - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

References

1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908.

2. Yale, Donald Rodney, et al. The Yales and Wales. 2nd ed. San Diego, CA: Privately printed, 1980. Revised from the 1908 work by Rodney Horace Yale. Ref. no. 4202, p. 607.

3. Yale, Max Brian. *Private Collection of historical papers and manuscripts.*

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Attachment: Remembrances of Mildred Virginia (“Midge”) Yale

On October, 2010, Daughter Lynne provides these remembrances of Midge Yale and family life growing up:

Midge and daughters Lynne and Cora, wearing home-made dresses

The story goes that when Mom was in the hospital having her 4th child, Brian, Dad found and bought 2 ½ acres in the San Diego suburbs, Spring Valley. It was a small 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom home. They added on to it, doubling the size and adding a garage. They fenced in the back acre for animals. A barn and chicken coop were added. The “little house” near the barn was already there, a storage shed converted into a playhouse. The large Japanese gardens were behind our home, and we were allowed to pass through it and even ride our horses there. Dad terraced the property in 3 level areas, and Mom grew our vegetables on one level. She fed the animals, oversaw the chickens and eggs they produced. She had the house to run and 4 kids to raise. She said the one thing she would not do was churn butter, so we kids had to knead the margarine that came in a plastic pouch for our butter.

Her washing machine was a steep walk down in the basement, and after the clothes were clean, she had to use the crank on the wringer to move 2 rollers and feed the clothes one at a time to wring them out, then haul them to the clothesline to dry. Her heavy Kerby vacuum cleaner lasted over 50 years, and her Singer sewing machine (their first purchase) still works. She sewed a lot of our clothes, and made the curtains. Some of our dresses were matching. We had no dishwasher, and a party line telephone shared with a neighbor, which sat on a built-in shelf, the number was (Hopkins) H0 6- 1964. The six of us always shared this phone, which was quite busy when we were teens. We got a small black and white television in the early 1950’s. We had one car, and Dad car-pooled often so Mom could use it for groceries and for taking us around. But mostly we walked everywhere.

She was very active in our schools, was the home room Mom and in the PTA. She brought us up to be kind to everyone and live by the golden rule to treat others as we wanted to be treated.

I never even knew our next door neighbors were gay until I was an adult, and she told me. They were 2 men who raised peacocks and flowers. Mom sent us to the Friendship Quaker Church every Sunday when we were young, each with 25 cents for the offering.

Mom was kind to our great Aunt Gladys, a spinster school teacher, always including her in holiday gatherings at our house. She was close to her sister Rhoda her whole life, and after they were older they spent more time together golfing and having fun. Her brother Norman Roberts was good to her, but we did not see much of him, except when we had the beach house. As teens, the beach house in Mission Beach and the Carmen Ranch Swim Club kept us very busy. They were both a lot of fun, and good ways to keep friends and family together.

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Mom was active in her sorority her entire adult life and every Christmas they would take money and toys to an orphanage in Mexico. She had my sister and I in dance lessons and all of us tried piano, horseback riding and swimming. She was just "cool" as a mom of teens, all our friends liked her, and our house was a meeting place where everyone came.

I asked her once how she managed 4 teens at the same time and she said it was exciting and fun, something was always happening. She really liked people. She had the talent of playing "by ear" the piano, and often would play for us and we could gather around and sing along.

When I turned 21, Mom and I were driving back to San Diego from Seattle, where I was based as a stewardess. We stopped at a Denny's Bar overlooking the ocean and I had my first legal drink. Soon there were Marines buying us drinks and some of them drove us home to Spring Valley, where Dad was furious, but we had such a great time! She was like a best friend to me after I was an adult. My best friend Yvonne and I used to talk with her for hours and she'd help us plan short trips together.

I took Mom to Rome and Spain and she loved to travel. She traveled with friends but mostly with Dad all over the USA and to most of the world. She was a docent at the Natural History museum. She loved to swim, and body surf in the ocean. She enjoyed hiking and bird watching, deep sea fishing, golf and playing bridge. They had friends for life. They went to the Hunewill Dude Ranch every year for about 20 years. They got a silver Airstream trailer and traveled alone or on caravans. When I lived in Borrego Springs, they would come down to see the wildflowers every year and stay in the park or my backyard. We spent several Easters there with family. Once a year during "Borrego Days" they would meet friends in the park and we'd visit. Mom would plan most Holiday gatherings, and she was the heart of our family.

She loved her Mt. Helix home, it was her favorite. She developed back pain there and had to slow down a bit. After 2 operations, she died in her sleep 2 weeks after the second one. She's had a dinner party the night before, because she was feeling better.

She truly filled her life with joy, love, and energy. She was never bored. The best Mom ever! Oh, Mom, you packed so much into 72 years. My thanks and love until I am gone too.

Midge had a college degree from San Diego State University (then, San Diego Teachers College), but with her large family she only had time to be a substitute teacher. She was also a Water Safety Instructor and a Natural History Museum docent. Her sorority sisters remembered her by having her name engraved on their collection box – a nice tribute to one of their most popular members. Shortly after her death in 1991, Max wrote the "A Brief Look at My Life with Midge", attached below.

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A BRIEF LOOK AT MY LIFE WITH MIDGE

We met on October 28, 1938. That was Midge's 20th birthday and we were on a double date. Midge was a fraternity brother's date. I don't remember who my date was. We went to a college dance and Midge and I danced every dance together. After our first dance we couldn't be apart. We danced so beautifully together we were in heaven. We fell in love that night and neither of us ever dated anyone else after that night.

We finally married on February 21, 1941. We had fabulous times together: we danced, we traveled all around the country, we studied together. We loved each other and loved life to its fullest. The simplest inexpensive things were wonderful, like buying a pint of ice cream and going to some secluded place to eat it together. We did a lot of necking at beautiful view points in the evenings. We went to the beach a lot in the summers.

I had three jobs and took 16 units a semester at San Diego State. I sold men's clothes in Montgomery Wards, I worked at El Cajon Grammar School on a N Y A job at 50 cents an hr. teaching P.E. and math courses and doing gardener and janitorial jobs as needed. I also worked nights at my brother Brad's Shell service station at the corner of 39th and El Cajon 3 hrs. a night and 5 days a week. In all, I worked 40 hrs. a week and didn't have much time left for studying.

Midge's dad Bill was a great guy and he approved of Midge and I going steady. Midge's mother Cora didn't. She thought Midge should get her teaching credential and believed I would prevent that from happening. I saved enough money to buy Midge an engagement ring (she wore my fraternity pin as a sign we were going steady until we got engaged). We were parked in my 37 Chevy coupe at Pacific Beach one late afternoon and I asked her to marry me. She said yes and we decided to elope when we could see our way clear to get married. Midge liked Santa Ana so we went there to arrange for our marriage one Saturday. We got our physical exams and made arrangements for our marriage the next Saturday at a marriage parlor. Reverend Bliss married us on February 21, 1941. The Reverend's wife was the only other person in attendance.

By the time we were married, I was working for the County of San Diego as a surveyor making $110.00 a month. We rented an apartment on Euclid for $35 a month. We married on Saturday and on Monday I had to leave for a one week surveying party in Borrego. Two weeks after we were married I left the Surveying job and went to work for the City of San Diego Engineering Dept. I made $225 a month (I'd passed the Civil Service Exam #1.).

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The first appliance Midge bought was her sewing machine. We made monthly payments. She was so proud of the sewing machine and used it a great deal to help on our budget. She used to make me almost all of my sports shirts. She did an excellent job too.

Midge continued with her teaching education and graduated about one year after we were married. She than completed her practice teaching and received her teaching credential which she never had time to use.

Denny was born one year and 9 months after we were married on Thanksgiving day, November 26, 1942. At that time, we lived in a house in East S.D. for $25 a month. Our other kids: Lynne, Coralee and Brian followed closely after Denny. They were all born while we lived in the Los Altos Housing Project in Pacific Beach during the war years. During those years I was working at Convair in the Engineering Dept as a Stress Engineer at $440 a month. We were working about 50 or 60 hrs. a week and for one year I worked the night shift from 4 pm to 2 am. Those were very busy years for both Midge and me. Taking care of four babies was a great task but she never complained. There was gasoline rationing, little meat, etc. But we enjoyed our kids and each other and made out great.

After the war, we moved to Spring Valley and went through a couple of years of hardship that no other woman could handle, but Midge did. We eventually had a good home and a good life in Spring Valley at 3141 Helix St. There were 2 acres, 2 horses 2 calves, many chickens, turkeys, cows and Ceasar the Great dog. We were still living there when the kids all left home (Lynne 1st, Coralee to USC, Denny to Mission Beach and Brian to Charlene). During these years Midge was tremendous. She had our kids in all kinds of activities. She was active in the PTA, she earned her Water Instructors Safety Certificate and kept the kids in swimming, horseback riding, academics, cars, you name it, she was there. She was a wonderful mother and wife. She always kept trim and well dressed. She had the most beautiful smile God ever created. She loved life and all her activities so much.

Shortly after the kids all left, it was hard for Midge to adjust to the big void. We sold the Spring Valley house that I built mostly by myself with Midge's forever assistance and rented a house on Catoctin St. near SDSU. We lived there for one year and then moved to 675 Murray Dr. It had a large yard and a great view to the East. We were happy there for approximately 20 years.

I retired early at age 57 in 1975. For 14 of those years at Murray we traveled a lot. The year I retired, we took a Natural History Museum trip to the Sea Of Cortez on an old ship. We visited many of the islands. Norman was the leader of that trip. Midge was a Natural History Museum Docent for many years. We

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took several Museum sponsored trips. We also had an Airstream Trailer and Ford Pickup which we used on many trips. We joined the S.D. Airstream club and went to Mexico. We went on several annual rallies to Iowa, Boseman Mont.,New Mexico. We took many U.S. trips by ourselves through the South and East coast including Kitty Hawk. Another through the Midwest into Canada. We went on 10 Elder Hostel trips, the grandest being to China for 3 weeks. This was only about 3 years ago. We went to Yosemite every year with some of our RV friends for the past 10 or 12 years. The last one was in May of 1991. We probably have spent 1/3 to 1/2 of our lives traveling since 1975.

Midge and I were extremely compatible. We liked the same things and activities. She was very able physically. She said she was a real tomboy as a little girl. She had great strength, balance and poise. She loved to rough it, take long hikes and go fishing. We went deep sea fishing several times each summer. She loved it and always caught plenty. The last year her back hurt a lot bringing in the big one but we'd go again. She loved traveling and camping was fine with her. Most of my men friends envied me for having a wife who loved to do all of these things, including trout fishing several times each year.

Besides all of these qualities, she was a beautiful woman and very feminine too. She was never mean or cross with me although sometimes I deserved it. She became an excellent bridge player and golfer. Everybody loved Midge, but nobody could love her more than I did and still do.

Some fortunate things in her life were: her children and grandchildren. She had twice the energy of anyone we knew. Some friends asked me how I could possibly keep up. Thank God I loved it. We traveled extensively. Such places as all 50 states, South Africa, North Africa, Spain, Portugal, England, Wales, France, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Israel, Egypt, Japan, China, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Canada, all of the great lakes, Alaska and much more. Lynne's United Airlines helped on many of these trips.

Another fortunate thing in her life was that she always wanted a beautiful home with excellent soil. She said that our Mt. Helix home fulfilled this desire.

She was very active with her sorority friends, meeting with them every other week. She was their President for many terms. She also held many other offices. She kept up her life with her girl friends at bridge and golf but never neglected me. She was wonderful wife and a real pleasure to live with. We always accepted each others wishes on where to go and what to do. After our real early years of marriage Midge never had to ask me for money. She did all our banking and bill paying and was free to spend whatever she wanted or needed with no accountability. She

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was very conservative and thrifty and never spent a foolish cent. But if she wanted to go to the Scandanavian countries with Mary Janesec plus other similar trips it was okay with me. She sure deserved it.

On June 1, 1989 we moved into my brother Bill's house. We paid cash for it. Midge was extremely happy with our new home and it showed in the way she decorated it. I helped with whatever she wanted like painting and making a nice room out of the den. I also put in a Jacuzzi and built a large deck across the back of the house. She was in 7th heaven with her house and her gardens which she took complete care of.

Her last year her back bothered her so very much but she carried on with all of her activities. She said she was going to shoot herself if she didn't get it fixed. Actually she didn't complain much and you wouldn't know she was hurting.

She had her 1st back operation for Spinal Stenosis by Dr. Rutberg in early 1991. It was a total flop. After checking with at least five specialists, mostly outside of Secure Horizons, we got back on Medicare. We selected Dr. Sam Assam. He operated on her on Aug 16, 1991. Her back was immediately much better. Life looked great for us and we were planning many activities including planning a 51st wedding anniversary celebration on Feb 21, 1992. It wasn't to be.

Midge died on September 1, 1991 around 1:30 AM. God only knows how I miss her. I try to take solace in that she did so many things so well, traveled so much, left such great children and grandchildren and will never have to live in a home for the elderly. She had so much happiness and gave so much happiness and lived a full life. Her love will carry on forever. She was always so much fun to be with. She gave me a very happy life.

Max, Her Constant Companion, Friend and Sweetheart
For 53 Years

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